



April 15, 2019

Assemblyman James Gallagher
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0003

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 430 (GALLAGHER)

Dear Assemblyman Gallagher:

On behalf of Enloe Medical Center, I write to support Assembly Bill 430, which would help provide housing relief for Camp Fire victims by allowing housing developments that meet specified criteria to utilize a streamlined ministerial process at the local level that will speed up approval of the project.

The effects of the Camp Fire on our organization has been horrific. Over a third of our county health care infrastructure has been destroyed, and the cost of meeting this huge new demand has taken its toll. We are short employees and physicians and have run out of room to take care of our patients. Hundreds of our employees have left the area due to the uncertainty of our situation, and many more have opted against employment with us due to the lack of available housing. We have been forced to seek very expensive outside agency assistance to find temporary employees and physicians, or further stress our current employees and doctors by requesting more overtime. Housing is absolutely critical to our ability to recruit and retain needed health care professionals and to continue to provide badly needed health services to our traumatized region.

The Camp Fire destroyed 14% of Butte County's housing stock, exacerbating the housing crisis in the area and making it difficult for Camp Fire victims and others to find affordable housing. It is essential that impacted jurisdictions within the county be able to utilize a streamlined process to approve new housing, thereby allowing evacuees the ability to stay in the area where they have jobs, family, and community connections. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Wiltermood
President/Chief Executive Officer